

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

in this generally ineffective decade was to clean up the **Gulf** of Tonkin. Again, in this instance, the Court of Hue proved In dealing with these pirates they admitted them to be inwncible, they were only increasing the anarchy in the country * In 1878, a tfakd element of disorder was added by the revolt of the **Le** partisans in Tonkin, supported by the local bandits. This **did**, however, give Tu-Duc the opportunity of calling upon Chinese aid, contrary to his treaty obligations to the French. The position of **the** was indeed curious. On the one hand, he subsidized to spread death and destruction in his own country, and on the other he asked CMna for aid in suppressing them as the sole **of** the French, By 1881 the French government realized that it must act, or that aU its would be annihilated by Annam's subtle policy. Ten lad the Prussian War, and there was still great fear «rf a foothold in Southern China through Tonkin. So the finally voted credits for an expeditionary force to a Protectorate 0m" Annam. Secrecy and vacillation, however, thi9 second TonMnese expedition. Commandant to the Far East in charge of these forces, without of **destination**. When Le Myre confided to him tuft m i§Sa_y he showed himself anxious not to err «§ was not to conquer Tonkin, but to act and adinini^iaiivdly" to extend French in- **Rivifoe** could set sail, he got word of Gam- lUt, and It w» not til the following March whether or not tine had beea foigotten in the shake-up of ia was despatched to Tonkin, on tfa tbfft Hie menaced the Hanoi garrison •ad tta of in tfae

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however,
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